

Appl. No.: 10/524,710

Amdt. Dated September 21, 2006

Response to Office Action Mailed June 23, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A driver structure configured to drive a U-character shaped staple including a pair of leg portions configured to pass through a bundle of papers and a crown for connecting the pair of leg portions, the driver structure comprising:

a blade edge disposed to be in contact with the staple;

first projecting parts provided at opposite end portions of the blade edge and disposed to be in contact with each corner formed between the crown and each of the leg portions for pressing the pair of leg portions perpendicularly when the pair of leg portions pass through the bundle of papers; and

second projecting parts provided on the blade edge in vicinity of the first projecting parts and configured to be in contact with the crown in vicinity of the pair of leg portions when the pair of leg portions pass through the bundle of papers,

wherein each of the second projecting parts has a corner portion disposed adjacent to the corner of the staple, which engages with the crown and is configured to prevent the corners of the leg portions from slipping toward a central side of the crown.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously Presented) The driver structure according to claim 1, further comprising a third projecting part provided between the second projecting parts to hold the crown of the staple when the pair of leg portions pass through the bundle of papers.

4. (Previously Presented) The driver structure according to claim 3, wherein the third projecting part comprises a crown pressing portion to press the crown.